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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /077 W
----------023718 102221Z /75
R 100657Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 860
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANTANANARIVO 1529

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PDIP, PDEV, PINS, CN
SUBJ: MCOMOROS MERCENARIES STAND DOWN, A LITTLE BID

REF: A) ANT 01377; B) KHARTOUM 3054

1. ACCORDING TO THE 28 JULY FRENCH WEEKLY MARCHES TROPICAUX, THE FPOLITICAL-MILITARY DIRECTORATE OF THE NEW COMORIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CHANGED TO POLITICAL DIRECTORATE AND COLONEL SAID MUSTAPHA M'HADJOU, AKA BOB DENARD, IS NO LONGER A MEMBER. HOWEVER HE MAINTAINS HIS POSITION AS COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE SECURITY FORCES.

2. THIS INFORMATION IS CONFIRMED BY RECENT VISITORS TO THE COMOROS AND NEWS FROM THE UNDP PERSONNEL ON THE ISLANDS. THEY ALSO STATE THAT THE PRESENCE OF MERCENARIES IS MUCH LESS OBVIOUS NOW AND THAT THEY ARE NOT SO BLATANTLY IN CHARGE OF SUCH SERVICES AS IMMIGRA-
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TION, CUSTOMS, AIR CONTROL, ETC., AS WAS THE CASE SEVERAL WEEKS AGO.

3. THE PRESENT COMORIAN GOVERNMENT APPARENTLY DESIRES TO GET RID OF THE MERCENARIES, HAVING NO DOUBT SEEN WHAT HARM THEIR PRESENCE IS DOING THE REPUTATION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN AFRICA AND ELSEWHERE (REF B).

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THERE HAVE BEEN TWO DIFFICULTIES. FOR ONE THING THE
MERCENARIES, APPARENTLY BY DESIGN, INCLUDED A NUMBER OF
INDIVIDUALS WITH NEEDED SKILLS IN SEVERAL FIELDS WHO,
AS SOON AS THE COUP HAD SUCCEEDED, TOOK OVER THE AGOVE
CITED FUNCTIONS OF GOVERNMENT. THE OTHER IS THAT THE
MERCENARIES ARE DEMANDING CERTAIN PAYMENTS AS THE
CONDITION FOR LEAVING. ACCORDING TO THE MERCENARIES
THEY ARE JUST INSISTING ON FINAL PAYMENT OF THEIR
AGREED CONTRACT. ACCORDING TO OTHERS THEY HAVE ALREADY
BEEN PAID IN FULL BUT ARE NOW TRYING TO CASH IN ON THE
GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE TO GET RID OF THEM BY IN-
SISTING ON ADDITIONAL FEES, REPORTEDLY $350,000 --
OR ABOUT $7,000 PER MAN.BARRETT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MERCENARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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SAS ID: 1773571
Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: PGOV, PDIP, PDEV, PINS, CN
To: STATE
Type: TE
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